

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



7 MAY 1963

REPLY TO AFNICAD
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Requirements for Collection by Satellite Image-Forming Sensors

TO: CHAIRMAN, COMOR

1. Reference USIB-D-41. 14/28 (COMOR-D-13/4), same subject as above, dated 17 April 1963 (TH 1493-62/KH).
2. Based on an operational and technical review of the requirement for cartography and geodesy and our best interpretation of the meaning of the requirement stated in paragraph 5. k. of referenced USIB paper, it appears that the requirement is overstated from an Air Force point of view. Therefore, to properly reflect the Air Force position, request the following two (2) changes be appended as a footnote to USIB-D-41. 14/28 (COMOR-D-13/4).

3. CHANGE 1: Paragraph 5. k., introductory sentence, change as follows:

".....photography of selected areas of the world's land mass....."

REASONS:

- a. There is no stated world-wide requirement for 1:50,000 maps. JSOP 68 recognizes 1:250,000 as the largest scale map for which a (nearly) world-wide requirement exists. The 1:250,000 requirement can be met by using currently proven techniques and source material currently being procured.
- b. The cost of acquisition of photographs for making 1:50,000 maps of the earth's land surface is of the order of \$500 - \$600 Million.
- c. Making 1:50,000 maps of this area is a task of approximately 100 years for the massed effort of the military and civilian cartographic agencies of the United States.
- d. More than 99% of the coverage would become obsolete before it could be used.

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NRO and USAF review(s) completed.

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e. The 1:50,000 maps is required for earth-surface operations only, and primarily where surface forces are, or shortly will be, in contact. The detail presented must be current, not as of 5 or 10 years before.

f. Up-to-date 1:50,000 map coverage of areas where it is required can be done much more economically by an alternate approach. The basic material can be gathered incidentally to the acquisition of reconnaissance photography. A proposal for the alternate approach has recently been made in a letter to the Chief of Staff, USA, signed by the Vice Chief of Staff, USAF.

4. CHANGE 2: Paragraph 5.k.(2), change as follows:

"Permit automatic stereocompilation of standard....."

REASONS:

a. It is proper that the USIB should state a requirement but improper that it should indorse the technique by which the requirement shall be met.

b. There is no such thing as automatic stereocompilation today. The Army has a contract for the development of such a technique. The contractor's estimate of readiness is three to five years away. Standards to which photography for such an hypothetical capability should conform are not determinable.

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